

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Sir:

Please enter the amendments and remarks provided below in response to the Office Action dated January 13, 2003.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Method claims 49 and 54 are withdrawn and canceled without prejudice. Please cancel claims 49 and 54.

R E M A R K S

Election/Restriction

Applicant agrees, without prejudice, to the restriction, withdrawal and cancellation of method claims 49 and 54. For the following reasons, however, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's restriction and withdrawal of claims 40, 45 and 46.

The Examiner has restricted and withdrawn dependent claim 40, which depends from allowed claim 35. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's restriction is improper as the invention as set forth in claim 40 is directed to a further embodiment and includes further limitations of the invention set forth in allowed claim 35.

As for claims 45 and 46, applicant respectfully calls the Examiner's attention to pages 1, 5 and 6 of the above-referenced Office Action dated March 13, 2003, Paper No. 20 (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action.") On page 1 of the Office Action, i.e., the Office Action Summary, the Examiner indicates that claims 45 and 46 have been withdrawn. Yet on pages 45 and 46 the Examiner indicates that claims 45